

INVENTORY OF FOREIGN SEEDS AND PLANTS.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

This inventory or catalogue of seeds and plants received during the spring and summer of 1900 represents the collections of the agricultural explorers of the Department of Agriculture in foreign countries, and also the receipts from various other sources. Included in the list are the seeds of a large number of native plants obtained for exchange with botanists and horticulturists abroad, it being possible to secure in this manner many valuable seeds and plants not for sale by dealers.

An effort has been made to verify every name, but in many cases the only sources of information have been the persons from whom the seeds or plants were obtained, while in some cases only colloquial names were obtainable. It is probable, therefore, that some of the names will be found to be incorrect.

The publication of this list has been so long delayed that many of the numbers are already entirely exhausted, as indicated by the word "Distributed," and many others will probably be distributed before this inventory reaches the experimenters.

The supply of seeds and plants at the disposal of this office is in most cases quite limited, inasmuch as the importations are made for experimental purposes and not for general distribution, it being unwise to make the latter until the value of the plants distributed is known. Distribution of the plants here catalogued will be confined almost entirely to the agricultural experiment stations and to persons known to be careful and reliable experimenters. It must not be expected that all or even the greater part of the importations will prove valuable. However, it is important that records not only of successes but of failures be obtained in order that future work may be more successful.

It is especially desirable that all persons receiving seeds or plants should retain the original numbers marked on the packages, as all the reports or other information will be filed under these numbers, and in this way be easy of access.

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